

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Background: Today, the House Homeland Security Committee marked up and approved H.R. 1731, the National Cybersecurity Protection Advancement Act of 2015, to enhance multi-directional sharing of information related to cybersecurity risks while strengthening privacy and civil liberties. The bill is scheduled to be considered on the House floor next week together with H.R. 1560, the Protecting Cyber Networks Act, which was approved by the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence on March 26th.

The following statement is from USTelecom Senior Executive Vice President Alan Roth:

“Chairman McCaul, Chairman Ratcliffe, and their staffs have been working hard over the last several weeks with Ranking Members Thompson and Richmond to develop a sound legal framework to help protect the nation’s communications and information networks from cyber threats and attacks. The legislation approved today by the Homeland Security Committee significantly reflects much of the input and feedback the Committee sought and received from stakeholders over the course of the last month. USTelecom deeply appreciates that open, bipartisan process and looks forward to seeing this important legislative measure move forward in the full House next week.

Voluntary participation by American companies in cyber threat information sharing requires that any legislation in this area remain practical and efficient. The purpose of this and related bills should be to protect American networks, critical infrastructure, intellectual property, and consumers from incoming threats and cyber-attacks – not to encourage the second-guessing of decisions that must often be made in a split second by network engineers. A public law that renders our networks less safe, or that results in little or no private sector participation for fear of attracting litigation, will ultimately be judged a failure. We hope all interested parties will bear that in mind as the amendment process unfolds on the House and Senate floors.”

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ABOUT USTELECOM

USTelecom is the nation’s premier trade association representing service providers and suppliers for the telecom industry. Its diverse member base ranges from large publicly traded communications corporations to small companies and cooperatives – all providing advanced communications services to both urban and rural markets.